

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October – Thanksgiving Sunday .

### **Announcements**

The people of Knox Bayfield acknowledge with gratitude the territory upon which we live, work, play and worship. Knox is on the traditional lands of the Anishinabewaki, Attiwonderonk (Neutral), and Mississauga peoples within Treaty 29, of 1827. We are all treaty people. We acknowledge that The Presbyterian Church in Canada was a part of the residential school system. We seek a new relationship with the First Nations of this land, one based in truth, respect, and reconciliation.

**HYMN Let There be Light (v 1, 3, 6) #727**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]**

One: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

All: **We will worship the LORD with gladness and come into God's presence with song.**

**One:** Know that it is God who made us.

All: **We are God's people. Let us give thanks to God this day and bless God's holy name.**

### **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>1</sup>**

Gracious and Loving God, we gather in this harvest season of thanksgiving. The transitions in nature provide dramatic autumn colours as we savour the last warm breeze. Renew our sense of gratitude for every good gift we receive. Especially we praise you for the gift of Christ Jesus who teaches us in new ways how to walk in the world you love. We are grateful for your grace and compassion and seek to share with those we meet. Living and loving God, we enjoy life with an abundance many cannot imagine. Yet, we confess, we do not always recognize our blessings and our privilege. We worry about our future and ignore the present needs of those around us. Forgive us our fear and narrow vision when we fail to care for creation as you intend. We pray all of this in the name of Christ. amen

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<sup>1</sup> PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

### Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel: in Christ we are forgiven and set free to begin again.

May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn**                      **Rejoice, the Lord is King** (v 1, 3, 6)                      **#267**

### To Hear The Word Of God

### Prayer For Illumination

Living God, you feed us with bread from the harvest and with your living Word. Nourish us with your hope and comfort us with your presence as we listen for your voice speaking in the Scriptures today. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE

Tanakh*	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7	[B#731/W#813]
Tanakh	Psalms 66:1-12	[B#528/W#583]
Epistle	2 Timothy 2:8-15	[B#212/W#229]
Gospel	Luke 17:11-19	[B#82/W#80]

May God bless our understanding of this, God's holy word. **The word of the Lord.**

O holy One, by the power of your Holy Spirit at work in the word read and proclaimed, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you. Amen.

### Gratitude

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise. Eternal God, holy and mighty, it is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, and to worship you in every place where your glory abides. The Great Thanksgiving calls us to lead eucharistic lives. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to live holy and joyful lives.

The scripture readings point us toward wholehearted gratitude within the present moment with two stories. Jeremiah wrote to encourage the exiles in Babylon and the leper expressed his faith in gratitude.

The exiles in Babylon were encouraged to live their lives fully. The prophet Jeremiah wrote from Jerusalem to the elders, priests, prophets, and all the people in exile Babylon. Jeremiah shared the prophetic message from God, 'Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.' The words of scripture influence the ways in which we understand. I was curious about the translation and compared verse 7 with another translation. The bible we use in this sanctuary is the New Revised Standard Version, the NRSV. It would be helpful to look back to the reading in Jeremiah on page 731 or 813. ... In the New International Version, NIV, verse 7 reads, 'Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.' [repeat NIV] The exiles were encouraged to live wholeheartedly in that place and in that time. They were to prosper in relationship with God and with one another. I wonder how the exiles heard the message from Jeremiah. Living in exile, yearning for a return to their homeland, missing the familiar, their customs and traditions. I wonder how displaced people today might hear this message. At the end of 2021, the total number<sup>2</sup> of people worldwide who were forced to flee their homes due to conflicts, violence, fear of persecution and human rights violations was 89.3 million. This is more than double the 42.7 million people who remained forcibly displaced a decade ago and the most since World War II.

I wonder how this message of gratitude sits with us in this culture of independent, self-made individuals. It can be challenging to wrap our thoughts around a sense of gratitude when there is an internal focus that only looks outward in comparison with others. There are challenges to face when we seek to be grateful while living in a time that is unfamiliar. In the current book study the concept of wholehearted arises quite often. We are reading the book Wholehearted faith by Rachel Held Evans. Recently our focus was on the Shema, a daily prayer that is repeated twice a day, in the morning and the evening. The Shema begins with, "Hear O Israel; the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends.html>

with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” Rachel Held Evans wrote, “The Shema is, like so many prayers, not so much an act of telling God something about what we are experiencing than a ritual of recentering ourselves—not on our own certainty but on our own faith; not on the futile chase for all knowledge but on the path toward relationship with the only One who can be a true know-it-all; not on ourselves but on the One who made us and the one who is with us.” In loving God wholeheartedly we become more aware of and more grateful for the many gifts provided by God.

Are we able to hear the encounter between Jesus and the lepers as an opportunity? An opportunity to reflect on how we respond to the gifts we receive? Do you pause to wholeheartedly contemplate God’s presence within your life.

The Samaritan turned around to express spontaneous and joyful gratitude. The turning around describes the physical action and it is filled with deep theological meaning. This simple phrase describes a movement of the whole person that was initiated by God's graceful work. There is a shift in his orientation toward God. When Jesus said, "Your faith has made you well" he is referring to his physical health and his spiritual well being, his welfare or prosperity ... the holistic healing.

This story illustrates God at work in making people whole, sound, and well, reconciled with God and one another. The Samaritan is cured of a severe disease, his social well being is re-established, and his life and faith are reconnected. His lived faith includes thankfulness because Jesus had mercy on him. He found himself before God in Jesus and recognized himself in relation to God.

The Great Thanksgiving calls us to lead eucharistic lives. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to live holy and joyful lives. Kimberly Bracken Long wrote, ‘Jesus is teaching us about the nature of faith. In short, to "have faith" is to live it, and to live it is to give thanks. ... One might almost say, in fact, that "faith" and "gratitude" are two words for the same thing: to practice gratitude is to practice faith. If faith is not something we have, but something we do—something we live—then in living we express our complete trust in God.’

When we practice intentional gratitude we experience life differently. We live in a way that is shaped by our thanks and praise of God. Stewardship is transformed to the glad gratitude of joyful givers. The mission of the church changes from ethical duty to the work

of grateful hands and hearts. John Burkhart once wondered whether "humans can survive as humans without worshipping. To withhold acknowledgment, to avoid celebration, to stifle gratitude, may prove as unnatural as holding one's breath."

C. S. Lewis observed the connection between gratitude and well-being. "I noticed how the humblest and at the same time most balanced minds praised most: while the cranks, misfits, and malcontents praised least. Praise almost seems to be inner health made audible." Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

**HYMN** **Be Thou My Vision (v 1, 2, 4)** **#461**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD**

**QUOTE** Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.  
Proverbs 3:9

On Harvest Sunday, we celebrate the gifts of God's good earth which sustain us and the labour of those who grow, harvest and prepare these gifts so we can thrive. We share our gifts – offered for the ministry and mission of Christ's church.

**BLESSING OF GIFTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Generous God, on this Harvest weekend, we thank you for all things great and small, for moments of wonder and the return of the ordinary which fill our lives with meaning and wellbeing. May our friends see in us the signs of a grateful heart.

Generous God, as we give thanks for the harvests of the earth and all the goodness that sustains us. We pray for your guidance to live respectfully within your creation. When harvests have been disappointing help us to share what has been produced so that no one goes hungry. Gracious and generous God, we offer our gifts in gratitude for all we receive from your hand. Bless and multiply them, just as Jesus multiplied a loaves of bread and a basket of fish to bless others. Use our gifts of time, talent and financial resources so others can taste your love in our community and in your world.

Generous God, we pray for the good of your world and the common good in our community. Where there is strife and hostility between peoples and nations, inspire leaders to show wisdom and courage in their decision making. We pray for people and places hard hit by flood or fire, storms, epidemic or earthquake. May neighbour reach out to neighbour with generosity and compassion.

Generous God, we pray for our neighbours and those who are facing health challenges. We pray for family and friends under stress or in sorrow whom we name in silence before you ...( silence ). We ask you to linger with Jenny, Stephanie, Judith & Gerry; Adam & Christina, Audrey, Grace & Rudy; and Rob.

Before we call, you answer, God. Before we speak, you know our words. Merciful God, accept our prayers, spoken and unspoken. May we sense your overflowing love in our lives, in your church, and in all the world. We join our voices together across space and time to speak the words that Christ taught his disciples ... **Our Father who art in heaven, hallow'ed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn All things bright and beautiful #435**

**To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction**

Get up and go on your way, remembering to turn back in praise to God. May you be blessed with faith and made well. Step forth in joy. Walk out in song. All the earth, praise God, for our God is an awesome God. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds through the grace of Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Postlude Amen**

**64 Be still and know**

Be still and that I am God x3

I am the Lord that health thee x3

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust x 3

**#727 Let there be light**

Let there be light; let there be understanding; Let all the nations gather; let them be face to face. Open our lips; open our minds to ponder; Open the door of concord, opening into grace.

Perish the sword; perish the angry judgement; Perish the bombs and hunger; perish the fight for gain. Hallow our love; hallow the deaths of martyrs; Hallow their holy freedom; hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come; your spirit turn to language; Your people speak together; your spirit never fade. Let there be light; open our hearts to wonder; Perish the way of terror; hallow the world God made.

### **461 Be Thou My Vision**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art, thou my best thought in the day and the night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom; be thou my true word, I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Father, thine own may I be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight; be thou my armour and be thou my might; thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower, raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain earthly praise, thou my inheritance, through all my days; thou and thou only, thou first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

High King of heaven, when the battle is done, grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's Sun; heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

### **267 Rejoice, the Lord is King**

Rejoice, the Lord is King; your sovereign Lord adore; Give thanks, O mortals, sing and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

For Christ the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love; When Jesus purged our stains, He took his seat above. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

His reign can never fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven: The keys of death and hell are to our Saviour given. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit And bow to his command and fall beneath his feet. Lift up your heart; lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the judge shall come And take the faithful up to their eternal home. We soon shall hear the archangel's voice; The trump of God shall sound: rejoice.

### **435 All things bright and beautiful**

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Resources include: PCC Worship Planner, <https://www.workingpreacher.org/> Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, and Feasting on the Word Companion, NRSV Bible

**Refrain** All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small  
all things wise and wonderful, in love God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings, God made their glowing colours;  
God made their tiny wings. **Refrain**

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun, The ripe fruits in the garden, God  
made them, every one. **Refrain**

The rocky mountain splendour, the haunting curlew's call, The great lakes and the  
prairies, the forests in the fall **Refrain**

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell How great is God almighty who  
has made all things well. (Refrain)